

Please amend the following claim:

*Sub D-17*  
2. (Amended) A gene comprising

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4 and having nicotianamine aminotransferase activity, or

(b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of (a), when incubated in a solution of 5 x Denhart's solution, 5x SSPE and 0.1% SDS at 65°C for 12 hours  
[encoding the protein as defined in claim 1].

REMARKS

Claims 2-20 are pending. Claims 2-13 are rejected and claims 1 and 14-20 are withdrawn from consideration.

No new matter has been added by way of the above amendments. For example, claim 2 now recites the subject matter of cancelled claim 1 as well as hybridization limitations. This subject matter is also supported by the present specification at page 6, lines 14-18 and page 28, lines 9-12. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.